

1038. L. 10
8 2

THE
INTEREST
OF
GREAT BRITAIN,
CONSIDER'D:

OR, THE *England*
Herring Fishery

Propos'd, as the most

RATIONAL EXPEDIENT

For paying our

National DEBTS.

*The Dutch are more Wealthy by the Fishery in one Year, than the
Kingdom of Great Britain has from the Indies in four-*

*Keymores Observations reprinted at London, by Order of
the Lord Mayor, when a Fishing Company was erected
there, after King Charles II. Restoration.*

L O N D O N:

Printed for EMAN. MATTHEWS, at the Bible
in Pater-Noster-Row, MDCCXXIII.

THE LITTE

OF

RENT BR

CONSID

OF THE

RENT BR

AND

RENT BR

AND

RENT BR

AND

RENT BR

AND

RENT BR

AND

RENT BR

AND

RENT BR

AND

RENT BR

AND

RENT BR

AND

RENT BR

AND

RENT BR



THE
INTEREST
OF
GREAT BRITAIN, &c.



HE heavy Debts which the Nation lies under, and the addition which is likely to be made, should a disaffected Party continue their traiterous Attempts on our happy Establishment, or should there commence any Foreign War in a few Years; gives any well-wisher to the Publick a just Occasion of contributing the best Advice he is able towards the Removal of such a growing Evil.

HAVING accidentally met with some Accounts of the Herring-Fishery in Authors of undoubted Reputation who represent that Branch of Trade, as what would be of the highest Consequence

to the People of *England*, by demonstrating it to have been the main, if not the only Foundation of the *Dutch Grandeur*) I thought it might be of Service to revive a Proposal, which I find made by those, who very well understood that Trade, and the vast Improvement that might be made of it. If what they say be true (which I see no Reason to doubt of) there can be no better Expedition found out to reduce the National Debts, and render us a rich and flourishing People.

THEREFORE, what I advance on this Head, shall only consist in giving a Description of the *Grandeur of the Dutch*; in shewing that all this *Grandeur is mostly owing to the Herring-Fishery*, and in proving that the *English may manage this Fishery with more Benefit and less Hazard than they who have usurp'd it in our own Seas*; and further to encourage that Attempt, I shall endeavour to make it appear, that although upon Tryal we should be losers by the *Fishing Trade*, yet it would be our Interest to support it.

HOLLAND may justly be counted the Mystery and Wonder of the World, and its Inhabitants are the noblest Instance of humane Industry any where to be found: The first Rise of this little State (in Compass not much bigger than *Yorkshire*) was a Miracle, if we consider the

the prodigious height of Power, Treasure and Glory to which it has arrived, and by which it attracts the Admiration of Mankind.

A PEOPLE that have no native Materials for Trade, are, of a sudden, become Masters of the Art, and, but for *England*, would probably monopolize all the Trade in the World.

SINCE they have been inspir'd with the Spirit of Commerce, their growth has been admirable, and if permanent, old *Rome* must submit to the Comparifon: Poverty made 'em Industrious, Industry render'd 'em opulent and powerful.

HOLLAND, once an uncultivated Marsh, is now, for its Dimensions, the richest Spot of Ground in the World; fuller of People, Cities, Towns, Castles and Forts, than any Country in *Europe*.

IT has little, properly, of its own growth, yet is the general Magazine and publick Ware-house of the Nations; of itself barren, yet abounds in all Things, and from a dependant Province, is become a high and mighty State; all this is the product of Navigation, particularly the most advantagious Branch of it to 'em, viz. *their Fishery in our Sea*.

HOL-

HOLLAND has little or no Corn, and yet is the Granary of our *Western World*; they live in the midst of Waters, and drink not of them; they have no Vines, and yet, says the great *Scaliger*, here is more Wine than in any one Place in *Europe*.

THOUGH they have no Timber, no Place abounds more with Carpenters, Joiners, Shipwrights and Carvers; they have no sort of native Commodity towards the building and rigging of a Ship, yet have more Shipping than all the Maritime Powers, according to Sir *John Burroughs*.

THOUGH they have no Sheep nor Flax, they make more Cloth and Linnen than all *Europe*, *England* and *France* excepted; and in the Art of Dying, exceed all the Nations. They are Masters of the *Persian* Silks, and only wear plain Woolen; they are over-loaded with Spices and other *Indian* Riches, but feed only on their own Fish.

THEY have no Silver Mines, yet is there more Silver seen in *Holland*, than Brass in *France* or *Spain*. The famous BANK of *Amsterdam*, is supposed to be the greatest Treasure in the World.

N. B. It was a Fisher-man cast in the first Mite. BUT

BUT I shall only touch upon the Branch of their Grandeur which appears in their *East-India Company*; a Company that has Kings and Princes tributary to it; a Company that triumphs over the Riches of the *East*, and that spreads the *Batavian Glory*, to the remotest Parts of the terraqueous Globe.

A SHORT Account of *Batavia*, the Capital of their *Indian Empire*, may not be a disagreeable Entertainment to the Reader, therefore I shall add it here, as a further Instance of a fruitful Fishery.

BATAVIA, is a large well-built Town, situated in the Island of *Java*, in *Asia*, the finest in all the *East-Indies*, and the Seat of their *Governor General*; the Streets are long, spacious and even; between two Rows of Trees, that are always green, and afford a most agreeable Prospect as well as Shade in all Seasons.

NOTHING can be imagined more pleasing than the Aventues of the Town; the Roads that lead to the Gates, being border'd with Setts of high Trees always green; both sides are also adorn'd with Pleasure Houses and Gardens very neatly kept.

THEIR

THEIR Governour there keeps his Court and lives like a King; never goes abroad, nor gives *Audience* to *Indian Ambassadors*, without a Troop of Horse, and a Company of Footguards; he keeps a Royal Table and Train, is always attended by his Guards, Halbadiers on each side of his Coach, and the Guards as nobly equipt as the Royal *Swissers* in *France*.

HIS Lady also has her Guards and Train of State; their Coaches in the Town are very numerous and fine; the meanest of their Wives in *Batavia* never go abroad without her Slave and Umbrello.

THE Governor's Palace is a lofty and magnificent Structure, and has a Turret in the middle, with a Ship of Iron upon it, instead of a Weather-cock; the great Hall is hung with bright Armour, where he gives Audience.

THE Castle has four Gates, and as many Avenues defended by Forts, encompassed with wide Canals, over one of which, is a Stone Bridge of 21 Arches: The Cittadel is mounted with 60 Cannons, and garrison'd with a 1000 Men; on the Bastions of the Town the Cannon are always ready to turn upon an Enemy without,

or

or Mutineers within, for which End every Street has a Bastion that faces the Town.

THEY are never without 12000, or 20000 regular Forces, and can from their general Governments raise a 100000 Men, and equip 150 Vessels upon Occasion.

THEIR Soveriegn Council in *Batavia* has power to declare War, and make Peace with the *Princes* of the *Indies*.

THERE are six Governors of Provinces.

ONE of *Coromandel*, a rich Peninsula on this Side the *Ganges*.

ANOTHER at *Ambayna*, one of the great *Moluccas* whole Capital is *Victoria*. This is one of the best Plantations in the *East Indies*, secured with three strong Forts, of which one is furnished with 60 Cannon; and a Garrison of 600 Men.

ONE at *Fernate* the chief of the *Molucco-Islands*, whole King is their Subject.

ONE at *Banda*, the Island of Nutmegs, which they say, grow no where else but here, and in the little Islands that belong to it. All these so
B full

full of Nutmeg-trees that not one Acre but what is covered with 'em; a burning Mountain excepted.

ONE at *Ceylon* an Island extremely fruitful, in which are whole Woods of *Oranges* and *Citrons*; great Quantities of the best *Cinnamon*, *Gold* and *precious Stones*, *Pearls*, and *Ivory* which is the best in the World.

BOCHART has prov'd, that this Island is not only the *Ophir* of *Solomon*, but also the *Taprobane* of the Antients mention'd by *Pliny*, *Strabo*, *Ptolomy*, — called by the *Indians*, the *Land of Pleasure*, about 300 Miles long, and about 200 broad.

THE Governour's Seat, who has the Care of the Maritime Towns (that mostly belong to the *Dutch*) is at *Colombo*.

AND the sixth Governour is at *Malacco* in the Peninsula of the *Indies*, called for its Riches the *Golden Chersonesus*, and stands well for the Commerce of *China*.

BUT I shall add no more, nor shall I say any thing of their Civil and Military Power at home. Be it more or less, it, and all their Greatness in the *East Indies* is the Product of the

[II]

the Fishery which leads me in the next Place to shew, *that the Foundation of the Dutch Grandeur has been laid in our own Seas, particularly by Fishing for Herrings upon our own Coasts.*

THOSE Sons of Industry and Application subsist by Commerce; but that which has elevated them above the common Level, is that Article call'd the Fishery, which in one of their Proclamations (bearing Date *A. D.* 1624.) they stile, *Their Golden Mine.*

THEIR immense Riches, and the Number of their Shipping, which is incredible, Spring from the Secret of this Fishing-Trade, by which they are become Citizens of the whole World, and Lords of rich Nations and Provinces.

SIR John Burroughs in his Book, called *The Sovereignty of the Seas*, publish'd 1633, says, that in the *British Seas* at all times of the Year, there may be taken *Herrings, Pilchards, Cod, Ling*, and other Sorts of good Fish; that not long before he wrote, in one Day on the Coasts of *Devonshire*, there were taken 500 Tun of Fish

ON another Day were taken to the value of 3000 *l.* and near *St. Ives* in *Cornwal* 20 Coasts of Herring were taken one Draught.

IT will appear, that the vast Increase of the *Dutch* Shipping is owing to this Fishing-Trade. If we consider that upon their own Coasts they have 1500 Fishing-Ships ; every one of these employing another Ship to fetch Salt, and carry their Fish into other Countries, being in all three thousand Sail, maintaining at least 40000 Persons.

ALSO, upon our Coasts in Fishing for Cod and Ling only, they have a 100 Dogger-boats, (150 Tun apiece) 700 Pinks and Well-Boats, from 60 to 100 Tun apiece: And each of these employs another Vessel for providing of Salt and transporting their Fish into Foreign Nations ; making in all sixteen hundred Ships, which employ at least another 40000 Men.

AND for the Herring Season, they have above sixteen hundred Busses fishing upon our Coast, and every one of these makes Work for three other Ships that attend upon her, the one to bring in Salt from Foreign Parts, the other to carry Salt and Casks to the Busses, and

and the third to transport the pickled Fish into remote Countries.

THE total Number of *Dutch* Ships plying the Herring-Fair upon our Coasts is at least six thousand four hundred, whereof every Ship, one with another employs 40 Men apiece, which amounts to one million hundred and twenty thousand Fishers and Mariners; all which maintain double if not treble so many Trades-Men, Women and Children upon Land.

THE *Dutch* also have 400 Vessels at least, that take Herring at *Yarmouth*, and there, for the Honour of the *English* Nation, sell them for ready Mony, which is, as if the *Dutch* should come and mow our Fields, and then sell us the Hay.

THUS we see the *Hollanders* (besides those upon their own Coasts) have above eight thousand four hundred Ships, maintained by our Seas, by which, says, Sir *John Burroughs*, that *Holland* being not so big as some of our Counties have increased their Number of Shipping to at least twenty thousand Sail, being more than are in *England*, *Scotland*, *France*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, *Denmark*, *Poland*, and *Sweden*, and to this Number they add every Day.

BESIDES these *Dutch Fishers*; *Lubeck* has 700 great Ships; *Hamburgh* 600, *Embsen* 1400, whereunto add the Ships of *Bremen*, *Portugal*, *Spain*, and *France*, who for the most part fish in our Seas: And as *Sir John* further says, it will appear, that above ten thousand Sail of Foreign Ships are yearly employed and maintained by fishing on our Coast: So that from this Nursery those *Dutch* Sailors are increased that daily furnish their longer Voyages to all Parts of the World.

IN *Holland* are annually built a thousand new Ships at least, to answer Contingencies; by which they make the most advantageous Returns; while this enriching Trade is neglected by the *English*, for whom Providence seems chiefly to design it.

MANY Authors tell us, that Herring-fishing was on the Coast of *Courland* till 1313, after which the Herrings went to the *Danish* Coasts than to those of *Norway*, and at last to the Coasts of *Great Britain*, on whose Shores they play in such infinite Shoals, as will at the expence of a little Salt pay all our National Debts.

GUICCIARDIN says, they are found no where but in the *British* and *North Seas*, and I think no where are found a People but in the *British* Island, who would neglect improving such an easy Opportunity of enriching themselves; for to the *East Indies* we send Gold, an *English Necessary*, and bring home perhaps a *Porcelane Jar*, a *Chest of Tea*, or a *Cargo of Spices*, which we may have from *Holland* at a cheaper Rate, and yet neglect the Advantage of our *Herring Fishery*, whereby the *Dutch* are enabled to sell us *East India Goods*, at a less Price, than we pay for them at home.

THIS puts me in Mind of a Fable in Sir *Roger L'Estrange*, about a Country Farmer who missing a fat Ox, sent his Man abroad to look after him: *Tony* went hunting up and down, till at last he found him in a Wood, but upon three Birds coming cross him, away goes he scampering after them and lost the Ox: We have this Fool, says Sir *Roger*, moraliz'd abundantly to us in common Practice; we leave the fat Ox to run after Butter-flies.

BUT to return. It has been computed long ago, viz. in 1633. that the *Dutch* then made five millions in a Year by the *Herring-fishery* this was in the Infancy of their Trade; which
in

in forty Years after they doubled, as you will find anon: Yea, the very Custom paid then for them in *Holland*, and the tenth Fish brought into their Treasury, made near a Million Sterling *per Annum*.

THE Curious may observe more concerning the *Dutch* Fishing Trade, in a little Book intitled, *John Keymores Observations upon it* about the Year 1601, which was reprinted at *London* by Order of the Lord Mayor, when a Fishing Company was erected there after King *Charles* the Second's Restoration, which Company came to nothing through Mismanagement.

BUT the Author demonstrates in short, that the *Dutch* and *others* raise more Wealth out of our Seas in *one* Year, than the *King* of *Spain* had from the *Indies* in four Years, and there were twenty thousand Ships, and People without Number, employed by the Fishing Trade; from whence 'tis evident, that the narrow Sea is a Fund of vast Profit, and if our Heads were not ill made, the whole might be ours.

BUT so it happens, the Heads of our Countrymen have received such an ill Turn from the Zeal of Parties, the Debauchery of Elections and

and a Pride in their imagined Superiority to all the rest of the World, that they think it beneath them, to make Use of that laudable Industry and Frugality whereby our Neighbours have so prodigiously enrich'd themselves.

BUT what makes our Conduct still more unaccountable, is, that the *English* can manage this Fishery Trade, with more Benefit and less Hazzard and Trouble, than any other Nation.

THIS wonderful Treasure, a Treasure of greater Value than the *Indies*, lies at our Door. It is within our Grasp, for we are surrounded with the Sea, and all our Shores as well as Coasts abound with this Fish, they are near us; under our Noses, and we only want Hands or Hearts to seize and secure the Prey.

ON the other Hand, *Holland* has, I think but four Maritime Provinces, and not one good Harbour on their whole Coast. Before they can come to a proper situation for fishing on our Coast, they must cross a tempestuous Sea 2 or 300 Leagues. If they meet with Storms, they can't recover their Harbours which are but few and resit without great Difficulty and loss of time.

C

BUT

BUT we in stress of Weather, are near our Harbours, which are both numerous and commodious. Besides this ready communication with Land, gives us an Oppertunity of drying our Nets sooner, to pickle and pack our Fish, without delay.

THIS last Article, 'tis true, is objected against us, because Fish cured on Land is not so good as those done at Sea, according to the *Dutch* Way. I answer there are two Ways of curing Fish: *One* at Sea, where they are gipt immediately upon the taking, and so barrel'd up, and are accounted the best; the *other* at Land where they are gipt and packt.

TRUE it is, the Shore-made-herring does not take Pickle so kindly, but, as I am inform'd, if their Throats be cut as soon as they are taken they will be no way inferiour to the Sea-made-herring, especially when the Harbours and Ware-Houses are so near the Ships; but rather than that should be an Objection against our Fish, let us imitate the sedulous *Dutch* in curing them at Sea and we shall certainly share in their Emoluments.

AGAIN, as we are nearer the *Piscary* than the *Dutch*, so we can get the Start, and make earlier Markets abroad. Nay, further from some Parts of *England*, our Fish may be in *France*, *Portugal*, *Spain*, and *Mediterranean*, before the *Dutch*, can return from our Coasts into *Holland*.

I remember that by granting *Cape-Breton* in *Newfound land* to the *French* (by *Queen Ann's Peace* with *France*) gave them an Opportunity of bringing their Fish into *Europe* a Month before the *English*, which then ruined our *Newfound land Trade*, which if duly improv'd would clear us three Millions *per Annum*.

I presume no one will question, whether there is Herring enough in the Sea for all, but perhaps may object, that should we strike into this Trade, the Markets would be overstockt.

I answer, that though we had as many Herring Boats as our industrious Neighbours, there is no room to doubt, but there would be vent for all, yea tho' you should redouble your Numbers, for what makes the *Dutch* encrease their Fishing-Boats, but the great

demand for this Commodity abroad, where whole Countries are almost starv'd for want of it?

TRUE indeed in *England* there is very little consumption of Fish, Flesh being the great Article in our National Food, but in many other Countries, dry'd fish is every Days Meat, Winter and Summer, such as Pickl'd-herring, Red-herring, Cod, Ling, &c. And often there is a great complaint, especially about the *Baltick* for want of this Merchandise.

THE Reason is, because after *Michaelmas*, the *Sound* and the *Northern Rivers* are frozen, so that no Fish can be transported by Sea, into several Kingdoms, Dukedoms and Free-States, 'till *July* after, which is about eight or nine Months, and 'tis upon this Score that their Fish bears so excessive a Price in *Lent*, their old Stock being reduced, which could not be, if they had been supply'd the Year before with a sufficient Quantity.

BUT how must we do, that this Branch of Trade may turn to the Advantage of *England*?

IN

IN King *Charles II.* time, this Trade was one great Subject of Speculation; the Advantages of it appear'd in so strong a Light, that when the King wanted Money and the Parliament would not supply him, he was advised to turn *Fisher-man*, that is to set up this Fishery Trade.

SIR *Roger L'Strange* who was fixt upon by the Court, to cultivate that Subject, and to refine upon *Keymores Observations*, made it appear in his Book, viz.

THAT if the Fishery Trade in our own Seas were pursued by proper Methods, it would bring Millions a Year into the publick Purse, and make us a more flourishing Nation.

BUT his Majesty was for a Bird in the Hand, and proved too indulgent, to be at any Pains to aggrandise the Kingdom, by improving so glorious a Scheme, which doubtless, if he had done, would have made him great, and his Kingdom formidable.

THE Method then propos'd by Sir *Roger* was to to raise Money for a Fund which might be done by Loan, Contribution, or Tax.
Hitch-

Hitchcock computed upon 80000 *l.* to be furnished by 40 Persons out of every County, at 50 *l.* a man, reckoning *South-Wales* for one County and *North-Wales* for another.

CONTRIBUTION, adds he, would be an easy way, if the People might be secured from the Fate of the last Benevolence in this Kind. A general Tax would do the Deed at a Blow. Nay, a particular Imposition to introduce it by Degrees (as in case of the *Algeir-Duty* for the Redemption of Slaves, and the *Coal-Tax* for the rebuilding of Churches) would sufficiently Answer.

AND what were it, says Sir *Roger*, for the Clergy to make his Majesty a Present of 50 Fishing Vessels in kind, and deliver them without any further trouble into his own Ports.

WITH the Money rais'd, Wharfs, Docks, Ware-Houses, Grainaries, Nets, Ropes to be made, and Ships to be purchas'd, suppose 200 at first, the Expence of all this with very ordinary Success would be clear'd in six Months

THESE 200 Ships will train up yearly several hundred Land-Men for the Sea-service. 400 Ships would produce 3000 Marriners annually.

IN

IN short, an Act of Parliament would soon put his Majesty into a Condition to animate this Trade, which if once establisht, will prove the Foundation of an ample Revenue to the Crown, and Wealth to the Nation: The Detriment sustained by the *South-Sea*, will appear but a Trifle, compared with the Profit accruing by the Herring-fishery.

BUT as to the particular Method whereby to regulate this Trade, I refer it to the Wisdom of my Superiours.

ONLY I shall observe, that upon a Supposition the King should furnish out 400 Busses, there will accrue to his Majesty a third Part of the Profits in Right of the Vessels, which upon a reasonable Improvement will amount to three Millions yearly and remain to the Crown for ever, and which would ease us at least of so much Tax. 800 Ships would clear to his Majesty six Millions, and 1600 Ships, twelve Millions every Year.

DURING the Wars between *Holland* and *Spain* before the last Truce as Sir *John Burroughs* observes, the *Dunkirkers* made a sad havock among the *Dutch-Busses*. The next Year after, the Fisher-men agreed among themselves

selves to pay a Dollar upon every Cast of Herring, towards the Maintenance of certain Ships of War, to waft and secure them in their Fishing.

THIS occasion'd the keeping a Record of the several Casts of Herring taken that Year, and it appear'd thereby that in one half year, there were taken three hundred thousand Casts of Herring which at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ the Cast, the Fishermens Price amounts to three Millions and six hundred thousand pound, and at 16, 20, or 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ the Cast, as they are ordinarily sold, when they are transported into other Countries, it comes at least to five Millions of Pounds.

THE Advantages to the Nation will be incredible: To give the detail of Profit in its Latitude, will take up too much time: Therefore I shall only touch upon a few Heads.

THIS Trade must necessarily enrich all the Kingdom by setting all Hands to work; for 'tis remarkable that ten thousand Pounds-adventure in the Fishery employs more People than fifty thousand Pounds in any other Trade whatever, the Cloathing excepted. It will raise the Price of Land, &c.

THIS

THIS Fishery-Fleet will always supply the Grand Fleet with Sea-men upon any emergent Occasions, without putting us on the Method of Pressing, a Method disagreeable to all Men, especially to the Genius of an *Englishman* who may be drawn by a Twine-Thread, but not with a Cable-Rope.

BESIDES, this Piscation will bring all Foreign Commodities in upon the truck, which now we pay ready Money for; from *Spain* and *Portugal* in Return for dry'd Fish, you will bring Wine and Oyl; besides a great deal of Money in Moidores, and Pistoles; from the *Baltick*, in Exchange for your Fish, you will have *Polish Dollars* and *Hungary Gilders*; from *Germany* Rixdollars; *Russia* will warm us with its Furs; *Sweden* will supply us with Copper; *Denmark* and *Norway* will furnish Materials for our moving Fortresses; *Asia*, will refresh us with Spices; thus by the Exportation of our Superfluities, we import Necessaries.

FURTHER, this Trade will ease the Kingdom several hundred thousand Pounds a Year in Taxes to the Poor, by imploying all sorts of People; Men, Women, and Children, in Spinning, making Nets, Lines, Barrels, and

D pre-

preparing other Materials for the Fishery,
&c.

THIS will clear us of Loiterers, Vagabonds, and Beggars; yea ordinary Servants may make their Fortunes, says Sir *Roger*, by working of Nets at spare-hours, and adventuring them in the Fishery, *&c.*

LET it not be imagin'd, adds he, that I speak all this without Book, for I have my Calculation of the Profit of it from Sir *Walter Raleigh*, Sir *John Burroughs*, and many other learned and experienced Authors, who computed the yearly value at above ten Millions, when the *Dutch* had not half the Numbers of Busses, which now they have.

SINCE then, the *Dutch* have very much improv'd and enlarg'd this Article of Trade, so that what I have here advanced about it is neither new nor romantick, but uncontroverted Truth, which will always stand the Censure.

NAY further, though we should give way to the Fears of such People, who are scrupulous of Success in such an Enterprize, I will for once suppose (tho' not grant) that if we should be losers by the Fishing-Trade, yet

'tis our undoubted Interest, even in that Case to support it.

SHOULD it turn to our loss, such is the Nature of it, that it would still abundantly answer the Expence in the Consequences.

THIS Paradox may be easily accounted for, if we consider, that this Branch of Trade, is not only of common Benefit, but as the Case stands, of absolute Necessity to the Safety and Well-being both of King and People,

THIS Fishery is the great Original of Navigation, and the Primum Mobile of all our Commerce. Those great and flourishing Towns situated on the Sea, at first were but the *Huts of Fishermen*, who by Degrees converted their Fisher-boats into Trading Ships, and with the Assistance of those Ships transform'd their *Cottages* into *Sumptuous Habitations*.

OUR present Grandeur by Sea and Land, is the Product of the Sea, and our brave Sailors who waft over the Treasures of the *Indies* are the natural Offspring of Fishermen, who were the first Navigators.

THESE were the hardy Persons who first resolv'd to ride the Seas, and trust their Lives to a Board within an Inch of Death; 'till then the Sea was look'd upon as a wide Space forbidden to Man.

OUR Fishery is still the best Nursery for the Sea, those stout Fellows who garrison our floating Castles and render them the Terror of the World, are usually bred there.

OUR Men of War, and Merchant Ships that consume so many Sea-men, seldom make a Sailor, at least not the former: Sometime a Collier may rear a Mariner, but he destroys more then he makes.

THE common resource of the Sea-men, is the Fishery, where every Herring Vessel brings up six or eight new Men for the Sea every Year; so that our Fishery is as necessary to our Navigation, as our Navigation is to our Safety.

THE forementioned Knight carries the Matter yet further, when he says, if Fishermen were only to be employ'd as Pilots, their Service would more than countervail the Charge; for their Business lyes where our Danger lyes; they

they know all the Rocks, Sand-beds, Shelves, Creeks, and dangerous Passages around the the Island, indeed there is no Coasting without them. The Charts that guide on the Coasts, fail when they should conduct into the Port.

How many rich and brave Ships have been lost on our Coasts for want of a Fisherman to guide them? Nay, we can't with all our Skill in Navigation, pretend so much as to pilot a great Ship out of the River, without a Fisherman at the Helm; much less can we make Foreign Harbours without one.

THUS, though we should lose the Trade it self, yet it would countervail less by being the best School for Marriners, and best Insuring Office for our Shipping.

THE Neglect of this Trade produc'd that memorable Act of Parliament (*in K. Henry VIII. time A. 33.*) wherein they attribute the Decay of our Wealth, Sea-port-Towns, Boats, Ships, and Marriners to the *Neglect of the Craft and Feat of Fishing, &c.*

SIR *John Burroughs* has a remarkable Passage to the same Purpose. The Premises, says he, being considered, it makes much to the

the Ignominy and Shame of our *English* Nation, that God and Nature, offering us so rich a Treasure, even at our own Doors, we do notwithstanding neglect the Benefit thereof, and by paying our Money to Strangers for the Fish of our own Sea, impoverish ourselves to make them rich, in so much, that for want of Industry and Care in this Particular 225 Fisher-Towns in *England* are decayed and reduced to extreme Poverty.

Thus I have shewn the great probability of uncommon Advantages by the Herring Fishery, and of the great Ease, wherewith *England* may launch into the Trade, to which (by her Sovereignty of the Seas) she has a sole Right, therefore I shall only conclude with this short Demonstration, viz. That Money will pay Debts, that the Herring Fishery will make as much Money as we want, and therefore the Herring Fishery is one of the most rational Expedient for paying our National Debts.

F I N I S.